

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated July 25, 2005 (Paper No./Mail Date 20050720). By this communication, claims 20, 21, 25-51, and 80-111 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter and claims 19, 22, 23, 24, 71, 76, and 78 have been amended.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite flattening a bottom face of the second optical portion filled in the concavity, wherein the projection of the first optical portion has a substantially rotationally symmetric shape with respect to an optical axis, and the section of shape of the surface of the projection is substantially an arc, and wherein, in the flattening step, the surface of the second optical portion is polished so that a flat plane substantially vertical with respect to the symmetry axis of the concavity reproducing the shape of the projection is formed. Support for the subject matter added to claim 19 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in original claim 21. No new matter has been added.

Claims 22, 23, 24, 71, 76, 77, and 78 have been amended to improve idiomatic English and/or form where applicable. No new matter has been added.

Claims 19, 22-24, and 71-79 are pending where claims 19 and 71 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 21, 22, and 71-79. As noted above and discussed in detail below, Applicant has amended the instant application so that pending claims 19, 22-24, and 71-79 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 20, 23, 24, 71, 76, and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution claims 23, 24, 71, 76, and 79 have been amended in a manner that addresses and remedies the alleged deficiencies. Moreover, claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice, therefore, the rejection with respect to this claim is moot. For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection to claims 20, 23, 24, 71, 76, and 79 should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 19, 77, and 78 were objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended claims 19, 77, and 78 to address and remedy the informalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 19, 77, and 78 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by *Keller et al.*--U.S. Patent No. 6,491,851. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claim 20 without prejudice and amended claim 19 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn, and claim 19 be allowed.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Luebkeman*--U.S. Patent No. 3,912,400. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claim 20 without prejudice and amended claim 19 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn, and claim 19 be allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Keller* in view of *Sagara*--U.S. Patent No. 4,084,978. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 19. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 23 and 24 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 23 and 24 are further distinguished over *Keller* and *Sagara* by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 19, 22-24, and 71-79 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicant requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2084/DIV from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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